



# the RARA RAG

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## SATELLITES, PHASE III D AND BEYOND

By Bob Moore, N2USB

The program for the March 5, 1999 meeting will be presented by Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O a renowned expert in the field of satellite commutations. Walter will be sharing with us his knowledge on the Phase III D satellite and its current status and the forecast for its future. Walter will also be presenting to us information about the satellites currently available for use and their modes of operation as well as the plans for future satellites in the USA and other countries. If you have ever had the desire to experiment with this facet of Amateur Radio, or if you are experienced in satellite communications this program will offer to all levels of expertise an informative and entertaining evening.

## **RaRa MEETING**

**March 5, 1999**

**8:00 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

**Satellites**

By Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O

## Spring 1999 License Class Report

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO  
License Class Director

### **RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing**

**Novice - Tech - Tech Plus  
General - Advanced - Extra  
or**

**Whatever Elements you need  
to complete a license class.**

**Saturday March 20, 1999**

**Registration - 8:30AM**

**Testing - 9:00AM**

**Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester  
Inquires (716) 334-4488**

When this article hits the streets, registration and class will have already begun. Registration was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully we will have good participation in all classes. I will be able to follow up with more exact figures in the next issue. The same instructors are on board as we had in the fall with the addition of Bill McDonnell KG2F, teaching Extra theory. I wish to express my appreciation for the facilities at the 111 Westfall site. Classes will run for approximately 12 weeks finishing up with exams by the RaRa VE Team in late May.

### **Plan Now, Mark your calendar.....**

The Annual RARA Spring picnic will be held on June 19, 1999 at Ellison Park, Creekside Lodge.

# the RARA RAG

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## The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW, President RARA

Hey there RadioSports fans, how's it going? Working lots of DX, finding plenty of friends on your local repeater, entered any contests lately? Hope your rigs and antennas are working well. The mid-winter thaw that we're having is making me think of climbing and getting that bigger yagi up. Well, better wait for a while. I'm sure there's plenty of winter left.

Thinking of Spring, I've been making plans for the big one, the Dayton Hamvention. If you've never been, you might consider going. Yup, it's a pretty long drive (8-10 hrs depending on who you talk to). But everybody that's anybody in ham radio is there, manufacturers, dealers, DXers, contesters, as well as the biggest flea market you'll ever see, anywhere! I was surprised that we got hotel reservations on the first call and that was in early January. Hope the attendance is up at the usual 25,000 plus or so. You'll never have such a great opportunity to see everything related to the hobby, newly announce radios and accessories, software, amplifiers, antennas you name it. You also get to talk to the manufacturers' representatives, engineers, dealers and other individuals that serve the hobby such as League officials, W5YI-VEC, and many, many others from every significant organization. If you drive, be sure to leave plenty of space in your trunk for all the stuff you're going to bring home. See the Hamvention web site <http://www.hamvention.org> for additional details. See you there.

Back to reality now, I am so pleased to report on the initial success of the club's Radio Coaches Program. What a great way to expose kids to communications and electronics while serving the community. Although not a specific goal of the program, maybe we'll see more young people come out for our license classes in the near future. Keith N2BEL and the staff of Coaches have been working very hard with the 5th grade science teacher at school 43. I am looking forward to having our program become a model for other clubs' coaching programs with some feedback back to the League. Peter W2SKY has put some very nice pictures on the club's web site of our coaches in action at the school. Check it out.

Another series of events that's caught my attention lately, and I am again please about this, is that the FCC's point man for Amateur Radio enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, has been busy. He actually showed up on-the-air on a problem frequency on 75 meters one night to talk about enforcement actions. He's also checking into

some nets. Looks like the FCC is going to be making some very fine examples out of some flagrant violators. This is long over due and will hopefully have a lasting effect of clearing the air, literally, of some of the stuff we don't like to hear. It's fine to say "hey, I don't like what's on this frequency so I'll just change channels", but that's just ignoring a glaring problem, that over the past several years, seems to have gotten much worse. Looks like the FCC is finally, after many years of neglect, going to step up to their responsibilities and assist us hams with our self policing.

One last thing... At the February meeting I asked those in attendance why they came out to the meetings. Some in the audience gave me pretty much the answers I expected, "wife was home", the doughnuts - just kidding - actually, camaraderie, the programs, etc. What the Board and I really wanted to know was what keeps some of you at home, not attending meetings. If you're one of those individuals that doesn't come out to a meeting at least now and then, won't you please drop me or a board member an e-mail or a telephone call, or catch us on a repeater and give some input on what would bring you out? Thank you.

So much for this month. Keep up on your QSLs. Don't forget to send your green stamps to the bureau. Think seriously about helping with the club's Radio Coach program. And most of all, have fun! That's what this hobby is all about.

## DX Happenings

Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN

Certainly the big DX news this week is the announcement of a new country (or *entity* as they are now being called) to the DXCC list. Palestine, the former ZC6, is now recognized with the official prefix E4. Palestine is divided up into two parts; the Gaza strip which is WAZ Zone 20, and the West Bank which is WAZ Zone 19. The first operation from E4 is expected very soon by Ali, JY4NE, who awaits only a license to be issued.

The annual 425 DX News top 100 most needed list has been issued. The ten most needed world-wide are: P5, A5, VU4, BS7, 3Y, VU7, 7O, 3C0, VK0 and KH5K. Those are hard ones for sure.

This writer, with 321 countries, has only 2 of those top 10. A few top banders were rewarded with first ever 160 meter QSO's from china last weekend. BT1WW had special permission to operate on 160 and was operated by who else but DX Guru Martti Laine, OH2BH/BY1. There is a ton of DX this month. Watch for: FO0XUU Austral, FT5WH Crozet, JL1KFR/JD1 Minami Torishima, LZ0A S.

Shetlands, FR5ZQ/T Tromelin, T88TM Palau, and VK9YY Cocos keeling. Good hunting. (Tnx 425 DX News)

## Public Service-1999

By Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The time has come to get out your calendar and record the dates for all the public service events. The following dates have been set:

Susquehannock Trail Pro Rally	Fri-Sun June 4-6
Tour de Cure	Sat. June 5
Stuart Horse Trials	Sat. July 31
Walnut Hill Driving Comp.	Wed-Sun Aug.18-22
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Exercise	
Predrill	Wed. Oct. 6
Observed Drill	Wed. Nov 17
ADA Walk-A-Thon	Sun. Oct. 3
Pumpkin Patrol	Sat. Oct. 30

The following are scheduled, however no date have been determined:

Lilac 10K run  
Corporate Challenge  
Henrietta Dualathlon  
Geneseo Hunt Club

These are the events as of March '99. Additional dates will be published as they become available. If you are interested in working an event or more, contact Ed Holdsworth, at (716) 624-1929, or use signup sheets at the meetings.

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# 1999 Rochester Hamfest

## Programs-Part III

by Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU

The dates of June 4, 5, and 6 are fast approaching. These three days should be very important to all of us as they are the dates of the Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division Conference to be held at the Dome. Are you ready for this great event? RARA sure hopes you are as this Hamfest is sponsored in full by your club and its members. This years committee, chaired by Harold Smith, K2HC, has been working very hard to make this the best Hamfest yet.

One event of this Hamfest is the Atlantic Division Awards Banquet to be held on Friday evening at the Marriott Hotel. Do you have your tickets for the banquet yet? If not get them and lets fill the dining room and support the award winners. You can get these tickets at the same time that you buy your advanced Hamfest tickets.

Speaking of the award winners Tim Duffy, K3LR, was the Technical Achievement award winner at the 1995 Conference. Tim will be returning to Rochester again this year to present a program on **Contesting**. Tim is the ARRL's Contest Advisory Committee Chairman. See what goes on at this committee and how the rules are developed and implemented for different Contests. Also, see how DXing and contesting can go hand in hand.

**The ARRL Field Organizations Annual Meeting** will be hosted by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Western New York Section Manager. This meeting is a great place to converse with the ARRL field leadership and appointees. Learn what is going on in the Western New York Section and how you can assist this group in public service and with the National Traffic System. Once again this is a great meeting to eye ball the folks that you only talk to on the air other wise.

Have you ever had the chance to visit the ARRL Headquarters? If not it is something to keep in mind to do on one of your vacations or travel. If you have and it has been a few years there have been a lot of changes that have taken place. That is why Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Supervisor will present a program entitled **The ARRL Headquarters**. See what physical changes have taken place at the ARRL. See what the buildings, antenna farm, operations stations, etc. look like today after all the renovations that have taken place.

It is hoped that some of the programs that will be presented this year will be of value, interest, and a good learning experience for each of you. Be sure to join in the fun at this years hamfest.

RaRa Rag 4

# RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

March 1979: The March meeting was far out.... From Mars, that is. Not the planet, but the *Military Affiliate Radio System*. Speaking on this interesting topic was the Air Force with Terry Hahn, WA2AGO, representing the Army was Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, and the Navy by Dave Bodner, K2ZFM. Meetings were held at the Monroe County Co-operative Extension on Highland Avenue. It was with regret that the resignation of James Collinsworth, N2JC, as ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator was accepted. This vital position placed Jim in charge of emergency communications for all Western New York counties. His years of devoted service to the Amateur community and the general public was cited. He was instrumental for improving and modernizing RACES activities to include the use of FM and FM repeaters. The RDXA announced the formation of a DX Net for Thursday evenings on the 22/82 Repeater. A claimed Morse Code sending record was printed in the Rochester D&C, indicating that U of R Sophomore Chris Reich, had sent code for a continuous 24 hour period. The ARRL announced that dues would go to eighteen dollars a year. Reporting for the *Rochester VHF Group*, K2KGE reported that the Group's 30th Anniversary party was a great success. Many Charter members were present and Bruce Kelley presented the *World Above 50 Mhz* slide show. Our most active YL operator, Lia Zwack, WA2NFY, announced a new YL Net is forming. The ladies call themselves the SAYLARC's which is the *Second Area Young Ladies Club*. They met in 3944 Kcs. JR's and AR of Rochester continued their full page advertisement war with JR's offering new Century 21 transceivers at thirty dollars under list price. From the Want Ads, Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, was looking for a Johnson Viking 6n2 Thunderbolt amplifier.

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# QRZed With Alex, NV2Y

## Ho Hum!!!

So you're tired of sitting around. The only people you talk to are your radio schedules. You have no other friends to visit with. Don't get out of the house any more. Life is getting pretty dull. No more projects. No more interest. Wow! How do I break this hum-drum routine?

Let me help you count the ways. I am amazed how our radio community is split up into informal groups and subgroups. The key word is informal. And if you are not in one you ought to be. Let me explain. There are groups who gather together for a coffee break. Some meet for breakfast. Some for lunch. Some get together after their club or board meetings. Some meet any old time, just name the place.

These groups may be made up of two people to a dozen or more. Some bring their XYL, children or grand children, as I have done. Yes, even if breakfast is at 7 am.

So what do you talk about? This is just a bunch of guys talking. Yls often join in. I have not heard of any but Yls may have their own group. Talk about what ever you want. There can be a number of topics going on at any one table. If you don't like the topic, change it. If you want to brag, go ahead. Nobody gets serious about anything. It just feels good to be in good company and again feel your part of the human race. Oh yes! If you need some help on a subject, be it ham radio, plumbing, car repair, fixing power generators, aching backs, there is always some one to help.

Where do you meet these groups? You don't have to go with a group if you don't want to. Just call a friend and say let us go out for coffee and meet at a time and place. Or bring your own coffee and meet at a park bench. Why not? I do. If you have a hobby or a project ask some one over and share the fun.

Since my XYL and I have been retired, this is the way we each get out of the house. It is good to watch how refreshed she looks when she gets back from visiting with the girls. As for me I suspect I'm no different.

Where do you find these groups? I can name a couple but most all of them don't have names. You just meet at a certain time at a given place. The Genesee Repeater group meet on the first and third Sunday of the month at the Town and Country Restaurant in Chili Paul Plaza on Chili Ave. around 7am and order about 7:30. They have a hourly

reminder on Saturday before the Sunday breakfast on the 79 repeater. Everyone is welcome. Just walk in. I am sure you will recognize faces. Remember there are no strangers in ham radio.

There are other volunteer projects one can do to get you out of the shack and meet people. Those who are active in the amateur radio community projects are surprised at how much fun they are. All you have to do is sign up with Ed Holdsworth.N2EH at the RaRa Club meetings or call him on the phone, e-mail (address found in the RaRa Rag). The Antique Radio group can always use a hand pounding nails to guiding visitors. If you are knowledgeable about computers teach someone how to use one. I am thankful that one of our retired members has taken the time to teach the XYL and I how to use our computer. Life has not been the same. In addition to my HF and UHF radios, I can now talk to none hams, explore subjects that are not readily available on radio or the local library.

You see, all you have to do is take the first step. Just ask to meet a friend for coffee some where away from home, if that is feasible, or ask a friend if he belongs to one of these informal groups. You may be surprised on the answer you may get. Try it. It can be a lot of fun. Oh! Yes, it gets you out of the shack.

### Ways To Be Annoying!

Insist on keeping your car windshield wipers running in all weather conditions "to keep them tuned up:

Highlight irrelevant information in scientific papers and give them to your boss.

Make beeping noises when a large person backs up.

QRZ'd

---

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# Rag Chew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Why are Hams allowing Amateur Radio to take a back seat to commercial companies? For years most new technology was developed by Hams on the amateur bands. It is possible that today the technology advances may still be done by Hams, but as part of their jobs for commercial companies and not as part of their hobby. Because of this Amateur Radio is not moving ahead. In fact it seems to be losing ground. Everyone must realize that Amateur Radio is a hobby but it is not getting the time devoted to it by those that are a part of it. Is it because Hams are afraid of change today? Look at the discussion on the CW requirements and yet this is one of the oldest modes of communications that there is. Makes you wonder doesn't it?

Everyone says that digital communications is the way to go to handle a lot of traffic in a short time. Then why did Hams let the packet system stay at its current level of technology? Actually they didn't, they let the system degrade as they went on to use e-mail. You never hear anyone say send me that information on packet radio. That includes our own officers and the ARRL. If you send a message on packet you may get it to where it is intended in a day or two. On the other hand, if you use the internet your message only takes a few minutes to get to almost anyplace in the world. You can even do instant messaging any place with such programs as ICQ, AOL's instant messaging, and other programs. Try that on packet radio with someone in California. Using the internet and the correct software, your voice and real time picture can be seen by the person you are connected to. When will packet radio be able to handle that? But before trying that lets first get packet radio so you can send messages that have attachments in minutes and not hours or days.

One thing that Hams did well though was to build repeaters for use on the VHF and UHF bands. In most large cities it is impossible to find a frequency pair that is not utilized. Most repeaters have controllers that allow for many features such as phone patches, time and weather data, and links to I-phone (internet) or the HF bands. Of course there are the ones that are linked together. This is great if you are in one state and want to talk to someone in another. It would also be a great idea in an emergency to have the ability to link repeaters from Rochester to Albany (or any other city). However, what is your opinion of having half of the repeaters in Rochester area linked together? Is it a good thing or a waste of spectrum space? One thing that it does is keep the number of QSO's down as only one can take place at a time. That way you only

need one channel in your scanner to listen to all your favorite repeaters. This takes a lot of time to maintain too, which may be why a repeater that is not working correctly is allowed to operate that way for months before it is repaired. In some cases a repeater is taken off the air for months to be repaired and just never shows backup. In either case, a poorly or non working repeater does not allow for dependable communications when required.

It would seem that if the time is going to be taken to put something new on the air that it should at least be maintained and usable. After going for years without an ATV repeater (and this isn't even new technology) the Rochester area finally had a repeater installed. Unfortunately it has been off the air a large percentage of the time since. How are we going to convince the public that we can meet their needs with this type of communications when it is not reliable?

The items mentioned here are just a few. The real question is what is it going to take to start Hams to think differently and act differently to move Amateur Radio ahead in the future. Remember, this is just a hobby and everything stated here is done with volunteers. That is OK to a point, but if people that volunteer can't do or spend the time to do what they are volunteering for, then maybe they should ask for help or say no in the beginning. This way someone that really wanted to do something could. Amateur Radio is supposed to have a train pool of technical people to provide communications to the public. Today the public is going elsewhere to get their communications requirements as others are doing it better than us. Is this just a misconception? Lets hope so, but more importantly lets step up to the problem and change their perception.

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## Hi There Folks

By George, ZL3KD

Hi there folks – de George ZL3KD ex ZL2AON who spent many happy hours with the RaRa gang in Oct.-Dec. 1977 while training at Harris RF. The Ringo Ranger you gave me is still going well, thanks again, it was much appreciated. My thoughts are with you all. Have a great 1999.

*Ed-Receive by e-mail from ZL land.*

## SILENT KEY

Herschel Reed

K2TKB

January 21, 1999

# Reflections

By John Woika, W8JW

Hi, It was over 50 years ago that I recall becoming curious about some things in life. First, my mother would plug this cloth covered cord into the wall socket. It was a brown cord from the radio, a really neat radio, it was as tall as I was. It had this weird green eye that closed when you were tuned-in. The large round dial had lots of numbers on it and a large speaker, which always hummed before the music or the news would come on.

One day, when she wasn't looking, I crawled on the floor and studied the electrical socket. I remember putting my ear against it to hear the music. She came into the room and gave me the old, "Now what are you doing".

A year or so later the radio was replaced with a television. Another big wooden box with a little window to see black and white Howdy Dooddy; programs.

That same year I came upon a pair of some neat radio headsets. Ah! the smell of that leather headband and those large rubber earmuffs. It had a cloth covered cord, terminated with two silver pins or nails. Guess where curious John put those two silver pins; WOW! I can still remember the loud hum, but it only lasted a few seconds and then the headset smelled even funnier! But still, why didn't I hear the music.

It was 1954, or so, when a school buddy invited me to his home. As we walked through his house his dad was crowded around an array of ham radio equipment.

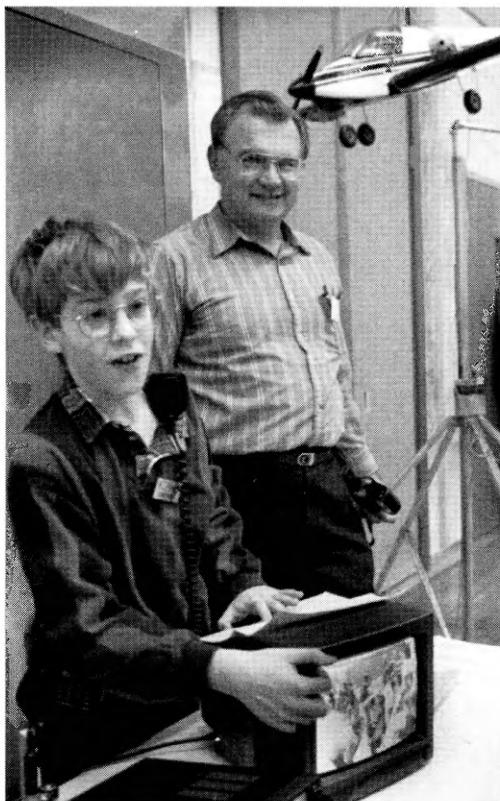
Six years latter I was DL5QM from West Berlin. Being the rare English speaking DX station was super. I didn't keep track of DXCC, I just sent RF from a Galaxy 5 up the coax to a 20 meter dipole. I was having too much fun chasing, Palmer Naval station Antarctica, Alaska, Guam, Japan. It was funny when our air base security would call me while I was working all of those eastern Europe/Asia UA / UKs from the USSR. Guess they thought I would sell our secrets via the ham bands.

After the cold war, I married and raised a son. He wasn't into my radio hobby.

In 1996, after 35 years, I said good bye to AT&T and started meeting with this bunch of guys at the Henrietta Fire house.

And now you know, the rest of the story.

*"Reflections" is a new column created to give members a chance to share with others an interesting experience in their pursuit of ham radio. Each of us has had, no doubt, such an experience, either in the distant or recent past. Be it something that happened to you or to someone else. Please let us know about it. You do not have to be a writer.—*



**The Plane-The Plane , The RC Plane:**

The Radio Controlled airplane (top) owned by Warren Boudrie AA2LQ is equipped with a miniature TV camera and transmitter, built by Jim Cronin N2VNO. It is supplying the signal for the picture on the TV screen aptly being demonstrated by Robbie Escriva KC2DQN with the approval of John Woika W8JW. The demonstration was RaRa's contribution to the Fairport Science in Action Fair presented at the Dudley Northside School, Fairport NY.

Other RaRa members who took part in the program were: Charley Escriva KB2SQZ, Peter Fournia W2SKY, and Paul Meyers N2OPW. Photo by AA2FO

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**March 10, 1999**

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